



international service for human rights TL1445-7

service international pour les droits de l'homme
servicio internacional para los derechos humanos

Geneva August 25, 1989

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

Please find enclosed an NGOs' Joint Statement on the Question of East Timor.

This statement, signed by 18 NGOs, expresses their concern about the situation in East Timor.

Yours Sincerely,

Adrien-Claude ZOLLER
Director

Joint Statement on the Question of East Timor
on the occasion of the 41st session of the
UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities

We, the undersigned, have followed with great concern the submissions made under Item 6 of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities regarding the situation in East Timor.

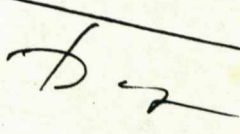
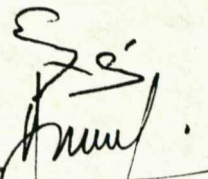
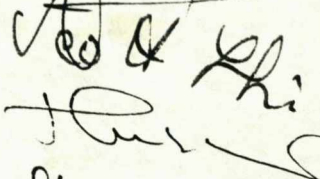
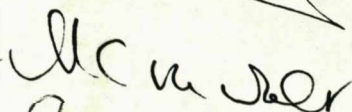
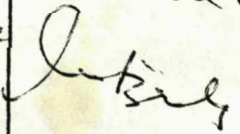
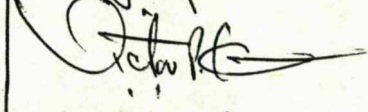
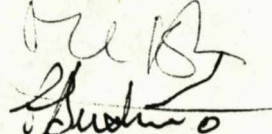
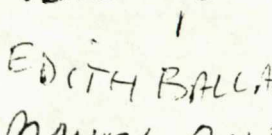
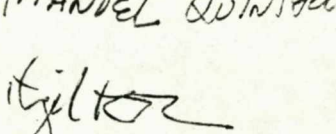
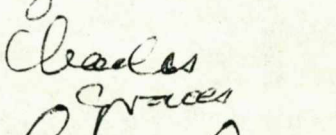
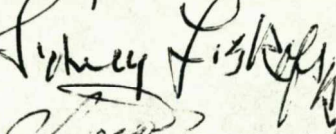
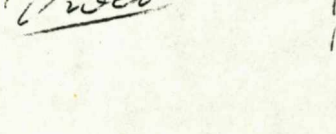
We welcome in particular the letter written on 6 February 1989 by Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, Apostolic Administrator of Dili, to the UN Secretary-General calling for a referendum in East Timor in which he states: "The people of Timor must be allowed to express their views on their future through a plebiscite. Hitherto, the people have not been consulted." We salute the Bishop's courage and note also that in July, a statement issued in Dili on behalf of the clergy of East Timor expressed support for his initiative. They said: "The moment has come for us to break our silence. We do not demand permission to speak. We demand the right to be heard."

The Sub-Commission has heard the testimony of a witness, speaking on behalf of the Anti-Slavery Society, who visited East Timor in May this year. He travelled to Baucau and Viqueque, met Timorese and Indonesians, civilians and military, collected information about recent human rights abuses, and took many photographs confirming the presence of combat-ready troops. His impression was that "East Timor is a country at war and a nation still living under foreign occupation."

The Sub-Commission also heard testimony from a newly-arrived refugee from East Timor who reported a wave of arrests last year in preparation for the visit to Dili of President Suharto, and of summary executions and waves of arrests in April, May and June this year in preparation for the visit to Dili of the Holy Father in October this year. A representative of Pax Romana told the Sub-Commission that many of those arrested in the past few months are young people, indicating that the occupation forces do not trust the very generation on whom they pin their hopes of East Timor's integration with Indonesia.

We recall with regret that the Sub-Commission failed at its 40th Session to adopt a resolution on East Timor as the result of a procedural move to prevent a resolution from being discussed and voted upon. In the light of new, up-to-date information made available to the Sub-Commission at its present Session, we appeal to the members to pay proper regard to the situation in East Timor and request the Commission on Human Rights to keep the matter under constant review.

Niall MacDermot
i.c.s

Name of Responsible person	Name of N. G. O.	Signature
Hrain Bahian C.M. EYA NCHAMA	HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES International Movement for Fraternal Union ~~and~~ of Races and Peoples Association Internationale de Educateurs pour la Paix de l'Europe	
Henry BARDIER	HABITAT INTERNATIONAL COALITION	
SCOTT LECKIE	International organization for the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination	
Hussein RAHANI	PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL	
M. Crum Walt M.C. VAN WALT	Int Fed. For the Protection of the Rights, Linguistic, Religious, Ethnic & other Minorities	
Moukoko Tzelin	Int. League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples	
Verena GRAF	PAX ROMANA	
VICTOR P. KARUNAN	MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP	
TICA BROCH	LIBERATION	
Cornel Budianu	Women's Int. League for Peace & Freedom	
Edin Ballantyne	WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FED.	
MANUEL QUINTERO	WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE	
NIGEL HARTLEY	Int. Commission of Peaceful Professionals	
Charles Graves	Int League for HR	
Simey Fikovsky	Indigenous World Association	
Miles Roger-Lempe		